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October 22, 2002

2002 OCT 23 P 1:35



Ms. Antoinette Kitchen
Senior Reports Analyst
Reports Analysis Division
Federal Election Commission
Washington, D.C. 20463

Identification Number:
Re:

C00004036
April Monthly Report (3/1/02-3/31/02)

Dear Ms. Kitchen:

Your letter to SEIU-COPE Treasurer Patricia Ford, dated September 11, 2002, has been forwarded to me for response. In your letter you raise questions regarding contributions to the Ron Kirk for US Senate and Citizens for Harkin Committees reported on the COPE Fund's April 2002 FEC monthly report. The first question results from a computer glitch in the software used to electronically file our reports with the Commission (FedPac software) and the other question arises from an erroneous characterization of a contribution coupled with an excess contribution to the General Election campaign.

On March 22, 2002, SEIU-COPE made two disbursements of \$5,000 each to the Ron Kirk for U.S. Senate Committee. According to the electronic version of the Schedule B of our April Monthly Report, one of these contributions is listed for the Primary Election while the other reported disbursement has no characterization at all. A copy of the electronic version of Schedule B was attached to your letter.

The software used by SEIU-COPE internally accurately reflects the proper characterization of these disbursements. One disbursement was for the Run-Off Election and the other was to repay Primary debt. Unfortunately, we are not able to use this software to file our electronic reports with the FEC. The FedPac software does not show disbursements for either Run-Off Elections or debt retirement on the FEC electronic filings. Attached are copies of the Invoices and Checks showing that the March 22, 2002 disbursements were for a Run-Off Election and to repay Primary Election debt.

While we have been trying to fix the problem with the FedPac software, we have been unable to contact the vendor who sold use the package. We are currently investigating a new software package which will properly characterize debt repayment and Run-Off Election disbursements. Unfortunately, until this problem is corrected we will still have a problem

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